

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address April 27, 2018

### Team Effort to Fight Opioid Abuse

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

As I have shared with you over the last few months, Congress actively is seeking solutions for our nation's crisis with opioids. While this issue extends into every neighborhood in America, there is no single solution. The opioid epidemic is a multi-faceted problem that will need a variety of answers. As we tackle this issue, it is invaluable to hear from Americans who experienced the effects of opioid abuse firsthand.

After three hearings and many conversations with doctors and advocates, the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee marked up more than 50 opioid-related bills on Wednesday. Following passage out of the subcommittee, I expect these legislative solutions to be considered on the House Floor in the months to come.

As we all know, combating the crisis will require more than legislative action. Tomorrow, April 28, is the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Drug Take Back Day. Take Back Day is an opportunity for North Texans and all Americans to do their part in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

As we hear time and again, too many victims of the opioid crisis have obtained prescription drugs from a family member's medicine cabinet. By taking unused prescription medicines to authorized collection sites, you can help prevent the diversion of these powerful drugs and reduce the possibility of drug addiction and overdose deaths. If you would like to learn more and participate in DEA Take Back Day, please visit [takebackday.dea.gov](http://takebackday.dea.gov) to find the closest collection site.

Too many North Texans have experienced the devastation of the opioid crisis. The statistics are heartbreaking: on average 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. In Texas, we lost more than 2,800 people to an opioid overdose in 2016 alone. There is no question that we must act to end this crisis, while at the same time maintaining a focus on patients needing immediate or long-term management of pain.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.